



NEW JERSEY FFA ASSOCIATION, INC.
New Jersey Department of Agriculture
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In cooperation with New Jersey Department of Education

MEMO

September 4, 2012

To: 85th National FFA Convention & Expo Attendees

From: Erin E. Noble, State FFA Specialist

Re: 85th National FFA Convention & Expo Details

The 85th National FFA Convention & Expo will be held in Indianapolis, IN from October 24-27, 2012. Advisor planning information is available online to help you prepare for this event. This memo highlights several items you should be aware of. Information is also available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.convention. I encourage you to use this resource as you prepare for convention.

Participant Lists, Advisor Statement of Assurances, and Student Codes of Conduct

If you have not submitted your Participant List, Student Codes of Conduct, and the Advisor Statement of Assurances, please submit them to the Office of Agricultural Education immediately. These materials can be downloaded from http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/agriculture/ag_ed/bulletin/NatConParticipantForm.xls. The participant list should be sent via e-mail to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us. The Advisor Statement of Assurances and Student Codes of Conduct should be mailed hardcopy or scanned and sent via email.

National FFA Convention & Expo New Jersey Room Block

The New Jersey FFA delegation will be staying at the **Hilton Garden Inn Hotel – Indianapolis Downtown**, 10 East Market Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. Their phone number is (317) 405-5709. **Room rates for the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel – Indianapolis Downtown per day are \$166.14 (single-bedded rooms) and \$171.99 (two-bedded rooms) inclusive of tax.** FFA Chapters are not eligible for tax exemption in the state of Indiana. The final room payment will be due directly to the hotel upon arrival/departure from the hotel. The hotel's website is <http://www.hiltongardeninn.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=INDDHGI>.

You will need to contact the hotel at (317) 405-5709 to get the balance of your hotel expenses for the week, confirm your arrival and departure dates and identify any special room needs. The hotel contact is Camille N. Lauer.

If you have not submitted the \$50 fee per room to the Office of Agricultural Education, please do so immediately. Checks should be made payable to: Treasurer, State of NJ and indicate "FFA Room Deposit" in the memo section.

Registration Fees (as per National FFA Organization)

The following registration fees have been set for the 2012 National FFA Convention & Expo

\$45 – for chapters that preregister and use the housing block.

\$45 – for chapters located within a 100-mile radius of the host city that preregister for a full registration and will drive daily to convention.

\$60 – for chapters that preregister and do not use the housing block or that will drive from a distance more than 100 miles from the host city.

\$70 – for all on-site registrations

If you are not in the New Jersey Room Block, you can request rooms through the National FFA Chapter Housing Block by September 12, 2012. Information is available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.housing

Courtesy Corps

The National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps assists convention staff in all activities of the National FFA Convention. Slots are filling up fast, so apply now! Find out more about what Courtesy Corps does at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.volunteers.

Pre-registration for Convention

Pre-registration is open and will be accepted until 5pm on Friday, October 12, 2012.

- a. You must have a MyAgCN account to register.
- b. More information regarding convention registration is available at http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_convention.registration

Be sure to include housing and emergency contact information on your registration. Tickets and convention buttons will be shipped to you via UPS.

New Jersey FFA Breakfast – RSVP by Thursday, September 27, 2012

The New Jersey FFA Breakfast will be held on **Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at the Hyatt Regency Indianapolis from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m.** If you haven't already, please RSVP by Thursday, September 27, 2012 to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us with the number of attendees you will have at the breakfast. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

State Suite

Tentative receptions are planned throughout convention for New Jersey's special guests. A limited amount of tickets for each session are available. Please send an e-mail to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us by September 27 to request suite tickets. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

State Photo

New Jersey's state photo will occur at **12:45 pm on Thursday, Oct. 25** in Lucas Oil Stadium. Hope to see you there!

State Booth

The New Jersey FFA Association will have a booth in the Hall of States at the Career Show highlighting agricultural careers in New Jersey and how FFA prepares students for career success. Kyle Clement, State FFA Reporter will be working with the Salem County Vo. Tech. FFA Chapter, 1st place Hall of States team and Jennifer Bucko, National Convention Scholarship recipient in coordinating the booth.

We encourage chapter members to visit the booth during convention. Career show hours are:

- Wednesday, October 24- 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm
- Thursday, October 25 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Friday, October 26 – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Transportation and Parking

Ground and air transportation arrangements should be made by individual chapters to meet your needs and to take full advantage of low cost travel and most convenient arrival and departure locations. An FFA member will not travel to the National Convention without his/her FFA advisor/chaperone, who is responsible for members at all times.

FFA has secured parking spaces for convention attendees. **You can purchase prepaid parking passes through online convention registration.**

Passes will provide a parking space (for automobiles, minivans, 15 passenger vans and pick-up trucks) in the same lot or garage for the entire convention and will have in and out privileges. Please note there are separate lots for busses and vehicles. Please plan accordingly.

If you are staying in a downtown hotel, you will have the option of using hotel parking and will need to arrange that directly through the hotel. Additional parking information is available at <https://www.ffa.org/Events/conventionandexpo/planning/Pages/Parking.aspx#>

Getting Around Indy – “FFA Way” and Shuttles

The easiest, safest, and most direct route between the convention arena (Fieldhouse) and the Indiana Convention Center (career expo, shopping mall, Finals Hall, and other events) will be “FFA Way.” Be alert to vehicular traffic sharing the street.

Shuttles will be available between the Indiana Convention Center and the State Fairgrounds (CDEs) and several hotel campuses. Be sure to check with your hotel desk to determine shuttle pick-up and drop off locations and schedule. **Shuttle passes for the entire convention can be purchased through online convention registration.**

Please check the parking map to locate vehicle and bus parking lots
<http://www.indydt.com/parking.cfm>. Parking passes are available through registration.

Free shuttle service will be provided Wednesday and Thursday to transport FFA attendees to and from the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds for Career Development Events and photos.

Shuttles between key hotels and the convention center are on limited schedules this year. Please check out the website for more information. More information is available at <https://www.ffa.org/Events/conventionandexpo/planning/Pages/travel.aspx>.

Career Development Events

If there are any changes in the Career Development Event team registration, this must be done on a National Add/Delete form through your AgCN account. CDE Add/Delete forms must be submitted by October 23. **NO ONSITE FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** By now, you should have received your CDE Team Orientation Packets and Schedule of Events. This information, as well as Superintendents Notes, is also available at <https://www.ffa.org/Programs/Awards/CDE/Pages/default.aspx>. CDE teams must be certified by September 15 using the online certification connected to your AgCN account.

Some CDEs will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is recommended that once at the fairgrounds for a CDE your team stays there for all activities, including meals. Not all CDE photographs will be taken at the fairgrounds. Refer to your team orientation packet for photo locations.

Dress

Official dress is required at all sessions for the 84th National Convention. It is important to maintain the professional, positive image that FFA has earned. Proper official dress lends members a unique identity. Refer to the Official FFA Manual for a complete description of official dress or go to http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_students.OfficialDress.

Casual clothing needs to be selected for the trip with attention given to presenting the proper image for New Jersey FFA and the school district you are representing.

National FFA Day of Service

Two National FFA Days of Service will be held at National Convention. The goal of this event is to promote civic engagement and service learning for FFA members. These events will be held on Thursday, October 25 and Friday, October 26. Registration can be completed online http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_aged.DaysofService.

Rally to Fight Hunger

This year the National FFA Organization is hosting a convention-wide service event, the FFA Rally to Fight Hunger, to help feed children and adults suffering from food insecurity. The rally will engage up to 10,000 members, advisors, sponsors, local volunteers, and stakeholders from across the country in hour long shifts over a three day period in Lucas Oil Stadium. Sign-ups can be done through Online Convention Registration. For more information visit, http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_aged.DaysofService.

Available Shifts

Wednesday, October 24 – 12:50 pm, 1:50 pm, 2:50 pm, 3:50 pm

Thursday, October 25 – 7:50 am, 8:50 am, 9:50 am, 10:50 am, 12:50 pm, 1:50 pm, 2:50 pm, 3:50 pm

Friday, October 26 – 7:50 am, 8:50 am, 9:50 am, 10:50 am, 12:50 pm, 1:50 pm, 2:50 pm, 3:50 pm

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 877-AgEd FFA.



National Convention & Expo - Experience It!

"The New Jersey FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws or policies."

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